

Message Text

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47/53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 /054 W

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O 071201Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3571

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7793

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CORRECTION PARA 1)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, NETH

SUBJ: DUTCH ATTITUDE ON SPANISH TRANSITION

1. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE DISARRAY AND UNHAPPINESS AMONGST THE AMBASSADORS OF THE EC-9 IN MADRID AS A RESULT OF WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE THE RATHER HEAVY-HANDED ACTION OF THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR AND THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE TRANSITION. THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR ARRIVED HERE IN JULY 1975, BUT BECAUSE OF THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS AND HIS OWN RECALL TO HOLLAND IN EARLY OCTOBER, WAS ONLY ABLE TO CALL ON THE PRINCE LATE IN OCTOBER. DURING HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE PRINCE, THE AMBASSADOR APPARENTLY GRILLED HIM EXTENSIVELY ON THE PRINCE'S PLANS FOR THE FUTURE. JUAN CARLOS SPOKE WITH SOME FRANKNESS AND MENTIONED HIS EVENTUAL DESIRE FOR FREE ELECTIONS, FOR GREATER PARTICIPATION BY VARIOUS DEMOCRATIC GROUPS, INCLUDING THE SOCIALISTS, AND HIS INTENTION TO BRING ABOUT AN EVOLUTION IN THE SPANISH POLITICAL SITUATION. THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR COMMUNICATED ALL OF THIS TO THE HAGUE WHICH, IN TURN, SENT INSTRUCTIONS TO THE EFFECT THAT IF, INDEED, THE PRINCE DID ALL THESE THINGS, THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT WOULD BE SUPPORTIVE.

2. TO THE CONSTERNATION OF HIS EC-9 COLLEAGUES, WITH
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WHOM HE DID NOT CONSULT, AND REPORTEDLY TO THE INTENSE

ANNOYANCE OF THE PRINCE, THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR SENT A LETTER TO THE PRINCE INDICATING THAT PROVIDING THE PRINCE UNDERTOOK FREE ELECTIONS AND CONSTITUTED THE GOVERNMENT AT THE OUTSET TO INCLUDE THE SOCIALISTS, HE WOULD HAVE THE NETHERLANDS' SUPPORT. AMBASSADOR REQUESTED WRITTEN CONFIRMATION OF PRINCE'S POSITION. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE PRINCE WAS TEMPTED TO WRITE A SHARP LETTER IN REPLY, BUT RESTRAINED HIMSELF.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT PRINCE BERNHARD OR PRINCE CLAUS

WOULD PLAN TO ATTEND RELIGIOUS AND PALACE CEREMONIES PROVIDED JUAN CARLOS' SPEECH WAS SUFFICIENTLY "DEMOCRATIC".

4. THIS HEAVY-HANDED DUTCH ACTION HAS NOT SERVED TO HELP THE DUTCH POSITION HERE, NOR HAS IT IMPROVED THE IMAGE OF THE EC-9.
STABLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: buchantr
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